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Sen. Stennis

# That's Washington

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WASHINGTON, JUNE 30.

THE SUBURBS OF WASHINGTON in Maryland and Virginia, as was noted here two weeks ago, now are larger than the city. The next question is this: Will the Federal Government follow the people and become a suburban establishment, too?

It already is a suburban establishment to a certain extent, starting with the great mass of the Pentagon across the river in Virginia. The Navy has a big annex in Arlington, Va., and the Naval Medical Center and the huge National Institutes of Health are both located in Bethesda, Md., for example.

But Senator Chavez (D., N.M.), a veteran member of the Senate Appropriations Committee as well as the chairman of the Public Works Committee, thinks it is time to call a halt. His answer to the question about the Federal Government moving into the suburbs is an emphatic "no."

Chavez protested in the Senate this week against the trend among Government administrators to buy more and more land outside of the District of Columbia for the new headquarters of various agencies. The Senator declared that he wants to preserve the basic idea of having the District of Columbia the seat of the Federal Government.

## Complaint by Stennis

The subject came up when Senator Stennis (D., Miss.), a member of the Armed Services Committee, arose to complain that the Central Intelligence Agency has added \$10,000,000 to its estimate of the cost of the new headquarters it proposes to build across the Potomac near Langley, Va.

Stennis remarked that a year ago, as a member of an Armed Services subcommittee, he had helped to convince some of the other members of the CIA's need for the new building, at an estimated cost of \$46,000,000.

"Even though the figure seemed a little high," Stennis explained, "I thought it was justified. I was influenced partly by the fact that thereby the Federal Government would be enabled to vacate some of the temporary buildings on or near Constitution avenue."

The CIA, it should be pointed out, now occupies a group of World War II temporary buildings not far from Constitution avenue.

Stennis said he would not give the Senate the number of employees working for the CIA—that is a figure kept secret by this highly classified agency—but he confided that the number was "shocking" to him and shocking to many others who had heard the proof as to why the agency needed to spend so much money for a new building.

## "I Am Further Shocked"

"In the face of those facts," Stennis said, "I am further shocked and somewhat chagrined to learn that the CIA is asking for an additional \$10,000,000 for the construction of this building, over and above the \$46,000,000 already authorized."

"The press has already dubbed the proposed building as a 'Little Pentagon,'" the Senator went on to say. "I was not in sympathy with that designation when it was coined, but later I concluded that the press was perhaps as nearly right as I was, even though I had more of the facts than the press had."

Thereupon, the Mississippi Senator announced that he would oppose the increase and added this thought:

"I strongly favor the construction of ornamental buildings on Constitution avenue, Capitol Hill, or other similar areas of the Federal Government. Such structures should not be built primarily with the idea of trying to save a dollar, because when we ornament the Hill it is an ornament to the entire nation."

"However, the proposed construction is away from the Hill, away from the immediate seat of government. I consider the proposed expenditure to be lavish. I think it illustrates the point that at some time the Congress must call a halt on lavish expenditures for public buildings. Otherwise we might make ourselves the laughing stock of those who know the facts."

## Chavez Takes Over

Senator Chavez took it from there.

"I know what the Senator from Mississippi is talking about," said the Senator from New Mexico. "I have found, through representations which have been made before the Committee on Public Works, that every agency of the Federal Government located within the District of Columbia has the bright idea that Congress will approve the selection of an area which suits the esthetic ideas of the agency."

Furthermore, said Chavez, the CIA is not the only agency doing this. He recalled that the Geological Survey, an agency of the Interior Department, had submitted to the Senate Public Works Committee a "great scheme" for a new headquarters.

"I think every member who is listening to me now is familiar with the area of the Bureau of Standards, on Connecticut avenue," he added. "There is no better location in the District of Columbia. Nevertheless, the bureau wants to give it up and move to a new location, where it can have more lawns, more of this and more of that."

## Raises Question

Chavez asked whether the Congress, entrusted with the responsibility of governing the voteless District of Columbia, should allow agencies to move away from Federal property in the District of Columbia and spend tax money for new property. As far as he was concerned, he said, the CIA and other agencies will have to make a better showing than they have up to now before he will vote more money for them.

In the early days of Washington, it might be mentioned, the idea was that the headquarters of the Federal Government should be established in the District of Columbia and that, to keep the Federal employees out of politics, the residents of the district would have no vote.

Now there are 228,503 employees of the Federal Government in the whole metropolitan area of Washington, and there are 2,175,772 in the United States outside of the Washington area. And in the Washington area, there are 840,000 men, women and children residing in the District of Columbia and 1,044,000 residing in the suburbs of Virginia and Maryland.

Thus there is evidence that Maryland, which owns the land for the District of Columbia to the Federal Government, is getting